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DAILY OPINION SUMMARY

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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February 1, 1962

No 4713

1. British Jets to Red China
2. Finale at Punta del Este

1. BRITISH JETS TO RED CHINA

Great Britain's projected sale of jet airliners to Red China is criticized. The planes are equipped with material which is on the Allied list for embargo to the Communist bloc, several protest, and "the deal not only undermines the whole strategic control system, but is bound to encourage similar deals by other countries" (Sen. Keating, R-N.Y.; also N.Y. News, Scripps-Howard press, George Sokolsky).

This "under-the-table business definitely short-circuits our defensive ties with Britain," the Scripps-Howard press and others assert. Calling it "a dirty deal", the New York News warns "it can only lead a lot of Americans to wonder just how sincere the present British government is in professing its loyalty to the Western alliance." Red China "is an enemy of NATO," says Sokolsky, "nevertheless, Great Britain sells planes to Red China....In a word, our allies prolong the existence of our enemy. These sales are suicidal."

Britain gives a boost to Red China's ambitions to push Russia out of Laos and take over itself by this transaction, say US News & World Report and Sen. Keating. These planes can easily be used to transport Communist troops to Vietnam, Laos, Korea and other hot spots, Sen. Keating pointed out (similarly, Newsweek).

2. FINALE AT PUNTA DEL ESTE

While there is some disappointment over the outcome, worthwhile gains are seen by all editors so far commenting on the conclusions reached at Punta del Este. "Secretary Rusk's patient diplomacy accomplished much," declares Scripps-Howard's Washington News, "provided the new ground is exploited."

Initial Congressional comment is also sympathetic in assessing U.S. delegation achievements. This "negotiated agreement," said Sen. Humphrey (D-Minn.), "lends both stability and dignity to the inter-American system" (similarly, Reps. Morgan, D-Pa., and Rags, D-Ohio). Senate minority leader Diessen hopes the abstaining nations "will yet be personally concerned," and Rep. Judd, R-Minn. is "very pleased with the developments."

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FINALE AT PUNTA DEL ESTE
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Conference gains are stressed by a number. To the Washington Star, even the "two-thirds vote on the key resolution was a considerable achievement--much more than was in reach a year ago." Two major goals were won, according to Scripps-Howard's Washington News: "The Cuban Soviet was divorced officially from the Western Hemisphere's sisterhood of Nations" and "Not a single South American nation on the final vote opposed the divorce."

The importance of the "unanimous acknowledgment that communism operating through Castro has created a spot of infection alien to the principles of the Americas" was stressed by the Baltimore Sun and others (Phila. Inquirer, Wash. Star, Wash. Post, N.Y. Times).

OAS is not split. "The hemisphere," states the Baltimore Sun, "is not, in fact, split in two on the subject of Cuba." Although regarding the refusal of six OAS members to join in the key resolution as "necessarily a setback for the U.S.," the Washington Post holds that "skillful diplomacy ought to be able to prevent a disagreement on means from becoming a schism on more fundamental questions."

"The groundwork is laid for further action," observes the New York Times, mentioning the arms embargo as a "start toward sanctions." To the Wall Street Journal, "it will be important indeed, if better methods of tangible resistance to communism" come out of the extensive discussions at the conference.

A Caribbean Treaty Organization is proposed by the Scripps-Howard papers. Punta del Este has "cleared the decks," says the Washington News, for a regional organization which could be joined by "any nation which felt itself menaced."

Some stress the need for a "new dedication to the Alliance for Progress" as the way to meet the threat of pro-Castro forces within the Latin American countries (N.Y. Times, also N.Y. Herald Tribune). But "no amount of economic aid," declares the Wall Street Journal, "is certain to cause the vested interests of Latin America" to permit the necessary reforms.

The OAS response "must seem disappointing," says the Wall Street Journal, in view of the danger of Cuba's Communist "bridgehead in the Americas." The conference's "meager conclusion" cannot "topple Castro" or "abruptly halt Communist influence in the rest of Latin America."

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FINALE AT PUNTA DEL ESTE
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U.S. planning is criticized. "Because the Administration tried for too much," asserts the Baltimore Sun, "the substantial achievements of the conference are overshadowed." The New York Herald Tribune feels "someone should have seen that an attempt to convict and sentence the Cuban regime for its espousal of communism was not the best way to rally the rest of Latin America."

While the disagreement among OAS members "did not speak well for the prior information on which the State Department based its original program," observes the New York Times, "it gives the lie to Communist charges that the Latin American countries are pawns of 'Yankee imperialism'" (similarly, Phila. Inquirer).

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